# GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
# EXTERNAL AFFAIRS
# LOK SABHA

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:6796
ANSWERED ON:10.05.2000
G-77 SUMMIT
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**Will the Minister of EXTERNAL AFFAIRS be pleased to state:**

(a) the issues discussed at the recently held G-77 Summit in Havana;

(b) the outcome thereof;

(c) the main points raised by the Indian delegation in the Summit; and;

(d) the response of other delegates thereto?

## Answer

THE MINISTER OF STATE FOR EXTERNAL AFFAIRS

(SHRI AJIT KUMAR PANJA)

(a) & (b) The Group of 77 (G-77) South Summit of developing countries was held in Havana, Cuba from 10-14 April 2000. The Summit adopted three documents viz., the Declaration, the Havana Programme of Action, and a paper on South-South Cooperation.The Summit emphasized that in all their endeavours, developing countries would be guided by the principles and purposes of the United Nations Charter and by full respect for the principles of international law. The Summit declared its commitment to promote democracy and to strengthen the rule of law. It further agreed to promote respect for all universally recognized human rights and fundamental freedoms, including the right to development. The South Summit deliberated on four broad themes: Globalization; Knowledge and Technology; South-South Cooperation and North-South Relations.The Summit agreed on the need for developing countries to participate effectively in international economic institutions and policy-making processes. It reiterated the principle of common but differentiated responsibilities between developed and developing countries, and highlighted the need to gain preferential access to resources and technologies of the North to ensure sustainable development. The Summit deliberated extensively on the need for a fair, equitable and rule-based multilateral trading system that takes into account the development needs of developing countries, and called upon industrialized nations to fully address the implementation issues of the Uruguay Round Agreements that are of concern to developing countries. It also called for improved market access for goods and services of developing countries, and opposed all protectionist measures under the guise of labour standards and environment. The Summit resolved to revitalize and strengthen the role of United Nations system in order to promote development and international cooperation in the context of globalization. The Summit recognized the need to preserve and promote cultural diversity also in the same context. The Summit stressed the importance of obtaining preferential access to technology and resources of the North. It, however, also stressed that the countries of the South should cooperatively harness the potential of their own knowledge and technology as well as human resources, apart from forging common positions in international fora on issues of concern to developing countries. In this context, Economic and Technical Cooperation among Developing Countries (ECDC / TCDC) was seen as a key vehicleThe need to stimulate South-South trade and investment, strengthening cooperation in the monetary and financial fields, and promoting social development, including enhancing of capacity building, was also emphasized. It was further agreed that the North-South dialogue should be revitalized in order to ensure that development issues become central to this dialogue. In this context, the Summit deliberations referred to the importance of Official Development Assistance (ODA) to developing countries, rescheduling of debt, the need for a new financial architecture, and for the multilateral trading regime taking development requirements into account. The centrality of the UN in global economic issues, development and international cooperation was seen to be significant. It was also agreed that the institutional framework of G-77 should be upgraded to implement the South Summit decisions.

(c) & (d) India played an active and leading role in the discussions in Havana. It also helped the Summit to highlight the main concerns of the developing countries, and to identify action needed to be taken within the South-South and North-South context to bring development issues in focus in all multilateral institutions and policy-making processes. Participating delegations endorsed this approach to South-South and North-South cooperation.The documents finalized in the Summit i.e. the Havana Programme of Action and the Declaration, reflect these priorities.